



U.S. MISSION TO ZAMBIA



WORKING TOGETHER

Tiyende Pamodzi

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Ambassador Martinez poses with Stella and Irene, who will live in Friendship Houses 3 & 4.

Getting in Touch

Editors Note:

As Ambassador Martinez points out, we are optimistic that the newsletter you are looking at right now will provide a fantastic opportunity for us to *work together*. The team at Public Affairs vows to keep you informed about what we're doing, where we're working, and who we're working with. We welcome your feedback and/or suggestions. You can write to us at : LusakaNews@state.gov We look forward to hearing from you.

Happy New Year!

—*Christopher Wurst*,

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BUILDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

On December 8, 2006, the U.S. Mission in Zambia worked together to build Friendship Houses 3 and 4 at Lusaka's Habitat for Humanity (H4H) fittingly named *Tiyende Pamodzi* compound. This marks the third straight year that the Embassy's Public Affairs Section has given H4H a grant to build houses for Lusaka's poor. In a touching coda to the previous builds, the current owners of Freedom Houses 1 and 2 stopped by to thank workers and even lend a hand. Both Ambassador Carmen Martinez and Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen pitched in, as did 20 high school students from the American International School and numerous Embassy staff. Habitat for Humanity, which began in the U.S. in 1976, has used volunteers to build over 200,000 houses, sheltering over a million people, in 3000 communities around the world. In less than 20 years in Zambia, H4H has built over 1000 houses, and is now found in six of Zambia's nine provinces.

A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Mission monthly newsletter *Working Together*, or, as many of you would say: "Tiyende Pamodzi!"

Our aim with *Working Together* is to keep our Zambian partners updated on what's new at the American Embassy, and also to report on the numerous projects we are involved in all over the country. Besides reporting on our highlights, with the new monthly format, we will also be able to look forward, to keep you informed about upcoming visits, events and notable dates. I think you will be amazed at how busy we are—and I hope that this will inspire you to imagine new and creative ways we can work together.

Last month we welcomed journalists from all over the world to a conference on Editorial Leadership in Reporting HIV/AIDS issues, we built houses with Habitat for Humanity, we launched the documentary film "Road to Hope," we recognized artists at the Ngoma Awards, we continued our work on the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Project, trained local business owners, and I could go on and on. This month promises to be just as busy and just as exciting. And this new year promises to be the best yet. Happy 2007! Here's to *Working Together*!

GETTING TO KNOW...

Dr. Douglas Heimburger

Dr. Douglas Heimburger is a Fulbright Fellow who is in Lusaka to initiate nutrition research with the University of Alabama-Birmingham's Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). CIDRZ, along with the Zambian Ministry of Health, treats more than 80,000 people infected with HIV, the single largest cohort of infected persons in the world.



Dr. Heimburger, who is a Physician Nutrition Specialist in the U.S., is here to add nutrition studies to CIDRZ's portfolio. He is particularly interested in how to produce the best treatment outcomes despite the nutritional challenges faced by many Zambians, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS. Dr. Heimburger currently serves on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Advisory Committee, and he is the principal editor of a major nutrition text, *The Handbook of Clinical Nutrition*.

While in Zambia, Dr. Heimburger has taught at the University of Zambia's Teaching Hospital (UTH), lecturing postgraduate physicians on nutritional aspects of human disease, including prevention and treatment. He is also mentoring Zambian students and trainees in his research.

Dr. Heimburger has loved his time in Zambia so far, captivated by Zambia's "warm and friendly people and its natural beauty and pleasant climate." After his Fellowship concludes, he plans to continue to return to Zambia to monitor his projects.

U.S. STANDS WITH ZAMBIA IN FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

On December 15, President George W. Bush named Zambia as a focus country for the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)—a \$1.2 billion U.S. commitment to cut in half the number of deaths from malaria here and in 14 additional African countries that have been hit hardest by the disease.

The U.S. initiative ensures that new, effective drugs reach rural clinics and replace failing treatments. It is designed to provide pregnant women with at least two doses of medicine that protects them and their unborn babies; distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets that prevent mosquitoes from biting their intended victims; and spray small amounts of insecticides on the inside walls of homes to kill mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

"It is hoped," said Ambassador Carmen Martinez in an editorial published in *The Times of Zambia*, "that Zambia will, with the help of this Initiative, become a country where malaria is no longer a sad fact of life."

She went on to say, "This is great news for Zambia. We can beat malaria just as other countries did back in the 1950s when the disease was nearly eradicated—even in warm, tropical climates like we have here. Malaria is curable and preventable...But to be successful and stop the spread of this disease, individuals must make protecting their family and village a personal priority."

"Nothing is more precious than health," she concluded, "we must band together to help our neighbors. Let's not waste a moment to win the fight against malaria."

GETTING TOGETHER



← U.S. hip hop artist Dynamax (left) with Zambian artist Conscious at a concert in Lusaka last October.



↑ U.S. Ambassador Carmen Martinez greets children at the Ng'ombe Compound in Lusaka.



← USAID Assistant Administrator for Health Dr. Kent Hill with Zambian Health Minister Angela Cifire. USAID donated insecticides worth \$1.8 million in an anti-malaria effort in Lusaka.

Zambia Hosts International Editorial Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS

From November 27—December 1, the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section (PAS) teamed with the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM) to host an **Editorial Leadership in HIV/AIDS Reporting** conference. The conference was made possible with funds from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The first-of-its-kind conference brought together editors and journalists from 13 of the 15 PEPFAR countries to discuss both best practices and difficult challenges in their respective countries.

Celebrated local AIDS writer Dr. Mannasseh Phiri joined a highly skilled team of trainers, and led the group through a wide array of AIDS reporting standards. Participants visited local sites, and worked in pairs to produce stories from the field. They also spent a day at the American Center, where they had two interactive digital video conferences—with a *New York Times* health reporter, and with Ambassador Jimmy Kolker from the U.S. Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator. President Kenneth Kaunda led a panel discussion on World AIDS Day, and he challenged the group to keep AIDS on the front burner in their respective countries.

Ambassador Carmen Martinez, who opened and closed the conference, said: "You have the power to inform, to teach, to persuade, to bring change, to fight wrongs, to champion heroism, to inspire, to expose and, in this case, to save lives. Your words have the power to change behavior. Changing behavior, when it comes to issues like HIV/AIDS literally means saving lives."



A Conference participant from Rwanda poses with President Kenneth Kaunda.



Participants and trainers from the first-ever international PEPFAR Editorial Leadership Conference at a reception with Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen.

WHAT'S AHEAD



**JANUARY 15, 2007 :
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

Americans celebrate the 21st MLK federal holiday. Americans throughout the U.S. will honor the life and work of Dr. King, and his legacy of tolerance, peace and equality. More and more Americans are celebrating MLK Day by volunteering to do service projects in their communities. It is fitting that the day set aside for this selfless champion of civil rights has itself become a day devoted to helping others.

SPOTLIGHT:

Millennium Challenge Account

In July, 2006, Zambia implemented its Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Threshold Program. With a budget of over \$22 million, a successful MCA Threshold Program could result in Zambia becoming an MCA Compact Country. To date, other MCA Compact Countries in Africa have received hundreds of millions of dollars as worldwide partners in good and accountable governance.

Zambia's MCA Threshold Program focuses on three areas:

- Ruling Justly concentrates on capacity building for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and reducing opportunities for Administrative Corruption at three pilot institution—including the Ministry of Lands and the Zambia Revenue Authority.
- Economic Freedom: Reducing Barriers to Investment and Business Growth will lead to the establishment of the Zambia Development Agency; will rationalize and simplify the economic regulatory framework; will establish Patents and Companies Registration Offices (PACRO) in provincial capitals—and will considerably lessen registration wait times; and will focus on capacity building for the Program Coordinating Unit.
- Economic Freedom: Increasing the Efficiency of Border Management will focus on capacity building in modern customs techniques and integrated border control and management; will strengthen phytosanitary services; and will improve import and export quality monitoring, standardization and certification.

The Government of Zambia has crafted an ambitious Threshold Program, and, working hand-in-hand with USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, has already seen success: In November, the first new PACRO customer service one-stop-shop opened in Lusaka!

10th Annual Ngoma Awards Recognize Most Socially Aware Artists

The who's who of Zambia turned out on December 8th for the 10th annual Ngoma Awards, hosted by Zambia's National Arts Council. The awards, which are considered the most prestigious artistic awards in the country, recognize the achievements of Zambians in a full range of artistic endeavors.

For the second year in a row, the U.S. Embassy, through a grant from its Public Affairs Section, has sponsored the "Most Socially Conscious Artist" in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Ambassador Carmen Martinez, while presenting the awards, recognized the vital role that artists play, both to inform and educate the public about the disease, and also to influence the public with messages of responsible behavior and healthy living. The Ambassador reminded the packed auditorium and the huge national television audience that the U.S. Mission remains committed to standing by Zambia in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This year's Most Socially Aware artists were: **Chipata Jungle Theatre**



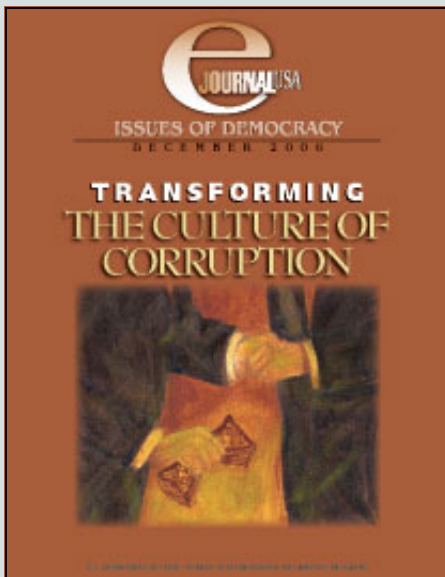
who perform AIDS sensitization works throughout the country; **Clement Mufuzi**, a founding member of **Zambian People Living with HIV/AIDS (NZP+)** and local and international supporter of **Zambian visual arts**; and **Morden Myembe**, the coordinator of the **Reproductive Health Communication Project of Solwezi**, which trains artists in reproductive health message for public community theatre performances and production of educational health videos in local languages.



AIRC Corner: What's Happening at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library

Electronic Journals (e-journals) from the U.S. Department of State

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1206/ijde/ijde1206.htm>



Transforming the Culture of Corruption

According to the World Bank, corruption can generally be described as the abuse of public power for private benefit. Types of corruption include grand corruption at the highest level of national government to petty corruption when small amounts of money lead to the granting of minor favors. Regardless of the scope of the corruption, such acts undermine the development of civil society and exacerbate poverty, especially when public resources that would have been used to finance people's aspirations for a better life are mismanaged or abused by public officials.

In recent years, a global framework for combating corruption has begun to emerge.

This issue of *eJournal USA* highlights the important roles that the public sector, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations play in promoting, preventing, and working to eradicate corruption worldwide.

View it online, or stop in to the MLK Library, in the COMESA Building, for this, and many other valuable publications.